

the Dalhousie **Gazette**

Volume 114

Number 5

October 8, 1981

Donahoe is back in Halifax Cornwallis

by Gregory Hamara

Terrence Donahoe, Minister of Education in the last Buchanan government, scored an easy election victory in Halifax-Cornwallis Tuesday, outdistancing his nearest rival, Liberal Dean Salsman, by over 2,000 votes.

In securing his second consecutive term in office, Donahoe captured 47% of the popular vote - virtually the same figure attained by the Tories province-wide.

A margin of only 67 votes separated Salsman from New Democrat Michael Coyle - who managed to increase the NDP's popular vote in the constituency to 26%, up from its 1978 level of 22%.

Slightly more than 75% of the riding's 13,984 eligible voters cast ballots.

Donahoe, who said he was "characteristically pessimistic about my chances throughout the campaign," attracted solid support throughout the riding - particularly along the North-

West Arm. His weakest showings were against Coyle in polls on the periphery of Dalhousie and St. Mary's universities. Across Halifax-Cornwallis, Donahoe took 47 of 69 polls; Coyle captured the remainder.

Both Salsman and Donahoe expressed surprise at the gains made by the NDP.

"There is no doubt that they (NDP) took away some support that we thought was coming our way," said Salsman. A campaign worker at his headquarters was more blunt: "They robbed us blind."

Coyle said he was "extremely pleased" with his showing, and was confident that, if the party could consolidate its base in the riding, it would be in a position to seriously challenge the Conservatives in the next election.

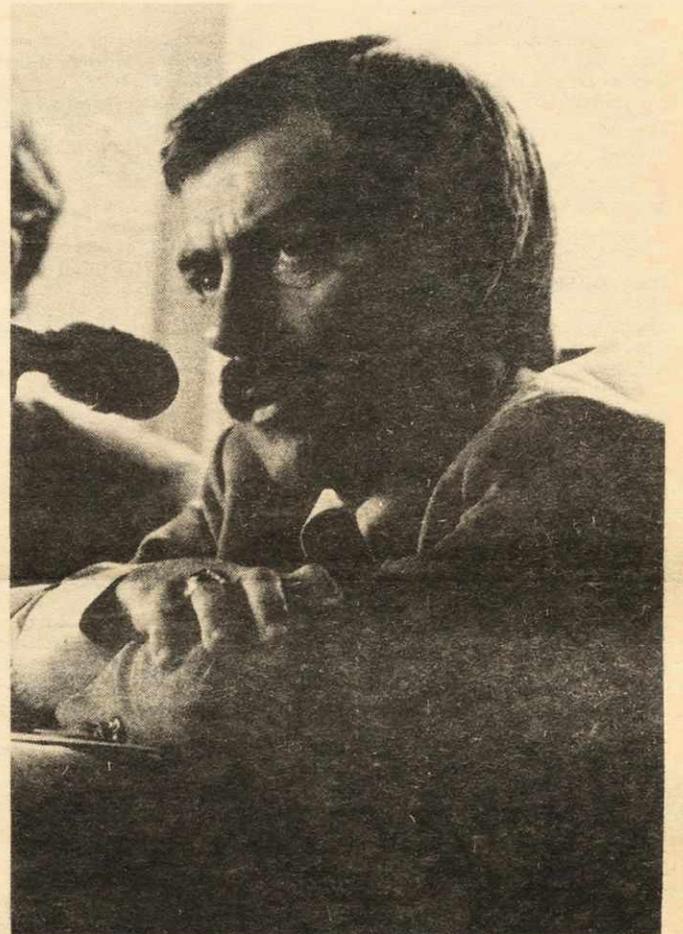
At the surprisingly quiet Conservative camp on Young Avenue, Donahoe refused to speculate on whether he would be involved in a possible Cabinet shuffle prior to the legislature's sitting, but admitted

he would be "more than pleased" to stay on as minister of education.

Earlier in the day, confusion broke out at the Spring Garden Road electoral office when a group of about 30 students were told by deputy returning officer Philip Chapman that because of residency requirements, they were ineligible to cast ballots in Halifax-Cornwallis. After a quick round of three-party shuttle diplomacy, the matter was settled and the students were permitted to vote.

Final tallies for the riding, with 1978 results in parenthesis: Conservatives, 4,906 (4,446); Liberals, 2,835 (3,104); NDP 2,768 (2,220).

Elsewhere in the province, the NDP's education critic, Len Arseneault, failed to retain his seat in Cape Breton North, falling to Conservative Brian Young, while Liberal critic Hugh Tinkham held on to his seat in Province House with a solid victory in the new riding of Argyle.



Engineers may be up to their old sexist tricks again

by Cathy McDonald

Exotic dancers are the centre of controversy with respect to the Dalhousie Engineers' closed beer bash in the Student Union Building this Thursday night.

The Engineering Society said exotic dancers are not planned for the event.

"It's nothing but a viscious rumour", said Bernard Petolass, Engineering Society President. He said the only planned entertainment was a band.

Because they could not hold a meeting, Dalhousie Student Council voted by phone on whether strippers will be allowed at the event. At press time the vote was 21 in approval, 6 against.

Two engineers are sure, however, that titillating entertainment will be provided. Joyce Swan and Ann MacLean complained to Murdoch Ryan, SUB manager, of the strong rumour that exotic dancers have been arranged for the event.

"(Hiring exotic dancers) reflects the engineers' general attitude, as do the pornography movies shown at the engineers' house," MacLean said. She said women engineers participate in things like parties and the ball, however, most of the activities are "male" oriented.

"They don't care about what women want to do, as women are the minority," MacLean said.

A few council members took a random survey in the Garden Cafeteria in the SUB. Out of 60 respondents, 48 said the engineers should be allowed to have strippers at their beer bash, some qualifying this with the understanding that the event is closed. 12 said the engineers should not be allowed to stage such an event.

David McMann, co-chairman of the Newman Society, a Christian group on campus, said he was satisfied with the student union executive's present method of looking into the mat-

ter. However, the society would mount some form of protest if exotic dancers are indeed employed for Thursday night.

Two years ago the engineers held a "Steak and Stein" which included strippers that sparked a petition with 200 signatures which was presented to council. Council decided that it was not in a position to act as a moral arbiter of the student body and should not censure the event.

Last year, the Newman Society circulated a petition on campus, opposing the use of any SUB rooms for immoral activity. The engineers did not hold a beer bash last year.

This is "discriminating and degrading and puts women down," they said. Swan and MacLean are worried that the engineers will no longer be able to hold events in the SUB this year, namely the annual Engineers Ball, if the student council decides to take some punishing action.

